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Nowe Drogi, Vol VI, No 6 (36), 1952.

DISCUSSION BY LODZ PARTY SECRETARY OF PARTY PROBLEMS IN RURAL AREAS

The following information is taken from one of 28 commentaries made by dignitaries of the PZFF (United Polish Workers' Party) at the Seventh Plenum of its Central Committee, held 14-15 June 1952. Each of the commentaries is an emplification of President Bierut's opening speech and was presumably edited by Nowe Drogi.

In the following commentary, Leon Stasiak, first secretary of the Lodz Wojewodztwo Committee, points out the many deficiencies in the work and composition of party organizations in rural areas and calls for an expansion of the network of party organizations, improved training of party workers, and increased control.

Difficulties in party work in the rural areas of Lodz Wojewodztwo are caused by:

- 1. An inadequate network of village party organizations
- 2. An undesirable social composition is our party organizations
- Inadequate party organizational work and inadequate methods of political, cultural, and educational work among the masses.

Lodz Wojewodztwo has a total of 3,250 villages, but only 1,406, or 43 percent, have party organizations. We have been striving for several years to eliminate the "white," or rather "black spots" /defined in Bierut's speech as places where the party organization is weak or nonexistent/ in the villages and to enlarge the network of party organizations there. In January 1952, only 1,218 villages, or 37 percent, had party organizations. The increase of 188 villages between January and June 1952, however, is insufficient.

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Some rural area party organizations have only a few members and their social composition is often bad. The attitude of party members is often incorrect and sometimes nonparty peasants put party members to shame.

The December Resolution of the Central Committee shows that the reason for these unfavorable manifestations is the weakening of the party's political drive and the vague and unsystematic leadership of party authorities. Village organizations are weak because they have little contact with the party, their meetings are very irregular, and their party education insufficiently developed. The powiat committees have made a great effort toward more systematic contact with the POP (Podstawowa Organizacja Partyjna, Primury Party Organization) and the township committee. We are striving to encourage powiat committ professional party workers to work with the village committees and to a cicipate at POP meetings. We are striving for the planned development of party organizations in conformity with the December Resolution so that they may work on a given worker, peasant, or intellectual to prepare him for party membership.

The work of many village POPs among nonparty people in Radom Powiat resulted in the acceptance of 15 persons, including 12 peasants, into the Zamosc the liquidation of "white spots" in the neighboring villages of Pomiary and Antonowka.

In the region under the township committee of Paszkowice, Lowicz Powiat, 27 persons were accepted into the party during the last 4 months as a result of planned organizational work. The Wyszkowice Township Committee organized six village candidate groups during 1951 and 1952. New candidate groups and POPs also arose in the Leczyca, Radom, Fiotrkow, and Brzeziny powiats.

Factory POPs in the Pabianice Cotton Factories during the last 5 months have accepted 37 persons, chiefly shockworkers, as party candidates. During this same period, the Tomaszov Rayon Factories accepted 85 persons, including 50 women, as party candidates. All these candidates are production workers.

Besides the successes, there are also many great deficiencies in our work. Many village party organizations do not take the lead in the villages because of the improper composition of their membership. The village middle class and not the poor predominates in them. Of course, we must carry on our work among the middle class, although they are few, and get them for the party, but there are still too few poor villagers in our organizations. This has an adverse effect on the attitude and drive of these organizations and on their approach to various actions and problems, including that of producers' cooperatives.

The secretary is very important in the village organization and often sets its pace, is the first to formulate an opinion, and plans the approach to a problem. The secretary of a village organization very often is an official of the township cooperative fof Peasants: Self-Help/, the director of the milk collection point, etc. There are not enough peasant secretaries. There were 419 peasant secretaries of villages, or 36 percent, before the last election of party officials, but now after the elections there are 525 FOP peasant secretaries in the villages, or 41.7 percent.

The township committee secretary's work is very important in determining the position of the party organization in rural areas. This is the weakest point in our party apparatus. The wojevedztve committee and the powiat committees are not working hard enough to reduce the turnover of these officers and to raise the level of the political and organizational training of township committee secretaries. Of the 192 secretaries in Lodz Wojevodztve, only 20 were trained in the 6-month vojevodztve school and 50 in the 3-month courses. The remainder have had no political training.

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After the last grain-collection drive 17 industrial workers became township committee secretaries.

The township committee must encourage more teamwork. The secretary usually does most of the work alone and the other members have no duties. The party line and program to bring peasants into the socialist economy require much township committee work with the party organizations and with nonparty people. Instead, many party organizations withdraw into themselves, have a very poor organizational program, and cut themselves off from the village.

In Praszka Township, Wielun Powiat, there is a village with a party organization composed only of forestry officials, township cooperative officials, and one teacher. Recently, the only remaining nonparty forester was admitted, but a peasant who applied in person because he had no written biographical sketch was not accepted. Likewise, in Tychy village, Lodz Powiat, the village organization which was formed in 1945 has not accepted a single new member since then, authough the village has several nonparty peasants who have received awards for their patriotic part in the grain-collection drive.

More attention must be paid to the political training of party members, of lecturers from the villages, and of propagandist groups. One of the deficiencies of work in rural areas is the inadequate supply of party and other. newspapers. Although there is one paper for every 3.5 inhabitants of the rural areas, there are townships, such as Bedkow, Brzeziny Powiat, where there is only one paper for 20 inhabitants, or Dmochin Township in the same powiat, with only one paper for every 23 inhabitants.

Social club work is insufficient. The people's sport associations are falling behind. There are only 490 of these in Lodz Wojevodztwo, which should have three times as many.

There is still a lack of permancht and mobile cinemas. Our wojewodztwo has no theater and the Lodz theaters do not travel to the regions. The attempts of the Wojewodztwo People's Council to obtain a traveling theater have been fruitless. A traveling theater organized at its own expense rarely has its own scenery or funds and the scope of its work is thereby limited. "Artos" practically never comes to the wojewodztwo.

The state apparatus plays a great role especially now, a time of rural transformation. The state apparatus, especially in lower echelons, is still weak in Lodz Wojewodzt.o. The wojewodztwo and powiat committees are striving to strengthen this apparatus. The revent mass drives conducted by the party were used to strengthen the people's councils by removing incompetents and replacing them with responsible persons.

The village bailiff holds an important position in our work. A thorough analysis of these officeholders showed that too few of the bailiffs are party members and many are not suitable for the office.

There are also some powiats so large that they would be better divided.

The foregoing remarks cover only a few things which impele the momentum of our work.

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